



SPECIAL EDUCATOR BLIND/PARTIALLY SIGHTED

The Special Educator-Blind/Partially Sighted certificate is valid for service as a teacher of students who are blind/partially sighted ages birth through twenty-one in the public schools of Rhode Island. This certificate is also valid for services as a diagnostic prescriptive teacher (DPT) to this population.

I. Certificate of Eligibility for Employment (CEE) – valid for three (3) years.

The initial certificate in Rhode Island for all areas of certification is a CEE. The CEE is used to seek regular employment in the public schools of Rhode Island for the field identified on the CEE. The CEE is also valid for service as a substitute teacher. If regular employment is not secured in the three (3) year period, the CEE can be renewed every three (3) years until regular employment is secured. To be issued a CEE in blind/partially sighted education an individual needs to satisfy all of the following:

- A. Bachelor's Degree from an accredited or an approved institution of higher education as defined in these regulations.
- B. Eligibility for a Rhode Island Early Childhood, Elementary or Secondary teacher's certificate.
- C. Graduate of an approved program for the preparation of Blind/Partially Sighted teachers within the previous five (5) years from the date of application. Applicants who have not completed an approved program can be certified by transcript analysis by presenting evidence of six (6) semester hours of student teaching for the Blind/Partially Sighted and not less than twenty-four (24) semester hours of course work to include work in each of the following areas: Introduction to Education of Students who are Blind/Partially Sighted; Psychology of Students who are Blind/Partially Sighted; Anatomy and Physiology of the Human Eye; Assessment for Students who are Blind/Partially Sighted; Curriculum and Methods for Students who are Blind/Partially Sighted; Fundamentals of Reading and Writing Braille; Foundations of Orientation and Mobility; Techniques of Working with the Severe/Multi-Disabled; and Behavior Management. The student teaching requirement may be waived for an applicant who has had two or more documented years of successful teaching experience in an approved blind/partially sighted setting. Certified teachers who have had two or more years of teaching experience and who seek Blind/Partially Sighted certification may fulfill the student teaching requirement by completing a one-year supervised internship at the blind/partially sighted level. After completing the necessary course work for the Blind/Partially Sighted certificate, and arranging through the local community for a one-year internship, the Superintendent of Schools may request the issuance of a one-year professional certificate. The Department of Education must approve the internship in advance and the supervisor must have at least 3 years of teaching experience. Upon successful completion of the internship, the individual will be issued a one (1) year professional transitional certificate.
- D. Applicants who have not previously been certified in the State of Rhode Island must achieve a score of at least 167 on the Principles of Learning and Teaching Test, K-6 or 7-12 prior to being certified.

II. Professional Transitional Certificate – valid for one year.

- A. The professional transitional certificate is issued to individuals who secure regular employment in the public schools of Rhode Island. Upon securing regular employment in Rhode Island, the CEE is used to request a one year professional transitional certificate. When applying for a one year professional

transitional certificate the applicant must submit the CEE along with documentation from the employing authority that regular employment has been secured in the certification area of the CEE.

- B. The professional transitional certificate may be renewed annually with the submission of a completed application and payment of the renewal fees.

.
Applicable to certificates expiring after August 31, 2010